CHAPTER 24

KING'S GAME ORIGIN

STORY BY NOBUAKI KANAZAWA ART BY JIRO YAMADA

...AGREE NOT TO KILL EACH OTHER?
THAT WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO ACT MORE EASILY, RIGHT?
SHE'LL KILL US!
SAW IT IN HER EYES!
IS MICHIKO REALLY CAN SHE.
BUT
WE'LL TRUST HER!
WE'LL TRUST HER!
INSTEAD OF WATCHING OUR OWN BACKS...

...WE CAN FOCUS ON CATCHING OUR PREY.
SHUFF
SHUFF
TWINGE
NGHK
Ugh...
Ugh...

FORGET IT!
I SAID IT ALREADY, I'VE GOT NO INTENTION OF KILLING ANYONE.
SHOVE
YOU SURE?
YOU SAY THAT NOW...
...BUT AFTER ENOUGH TIME PASSES YOU MIGHT CHANGE YOUR TUNE.
NOT A CHANCE IN HELL!
I DON'T WANT TO LIVE THAT BADLY.
HRMMM.
WELL, SINCE IT MEANS YOU'RE NOT GONNA JOIN THE FRAY, THAT'S FINE BY ME

YOU DON'T WANT ANY MORE ENEMIES TO DEAL WITH, AND THINKING ABOUT IT LONG-TERM...
..LEAVING ME OR KAZUNARI ALIVE IS THE BETTER OPTION
HOW 'BOUT YOU, SHUUHEI-SAN?
AFTER ALL...
LONG TERM HUH...
I AGREE THAT HAVING SOMEONE ELSE AROUND WHO FOLLOWED THE ORDER IS IMPORTANT.
THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE THE ONLY MURDERER.
FLINCH
ピク.

IF I HAVE TO KILL ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M BETTER OFF NOT TARGETING YOU TWO.
YAY! I KNEW YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY.
YOU'RE SO LOGICAL, SHUUHEI-SAN!
SHUU-HEI-SAN!
I DON'T HOLD A CANDLE TO YOU, MICHIKO-CHAN.

YOUR CAME UP WITH YOUR LITTLE RULE SO I WOULDN'T JUST SHOOT YOU, RIGHT?
YYYYYYUP.
HONESTLY, EVEN WITHOUT THE RIFLE, YOU'RE THE MOST DANGEROUS PERSON HERE.
I'D MUCH RATHER HAVE THE MASTER HUNTER ON MY SIDE
EVERY-ONE'S PROBA-BLY..
...HIDING UP IN THE MOUNTAINS.

I CAN MORE OR LESS PREDICT WHERE PREY WILL BE HOLED UP.
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME.

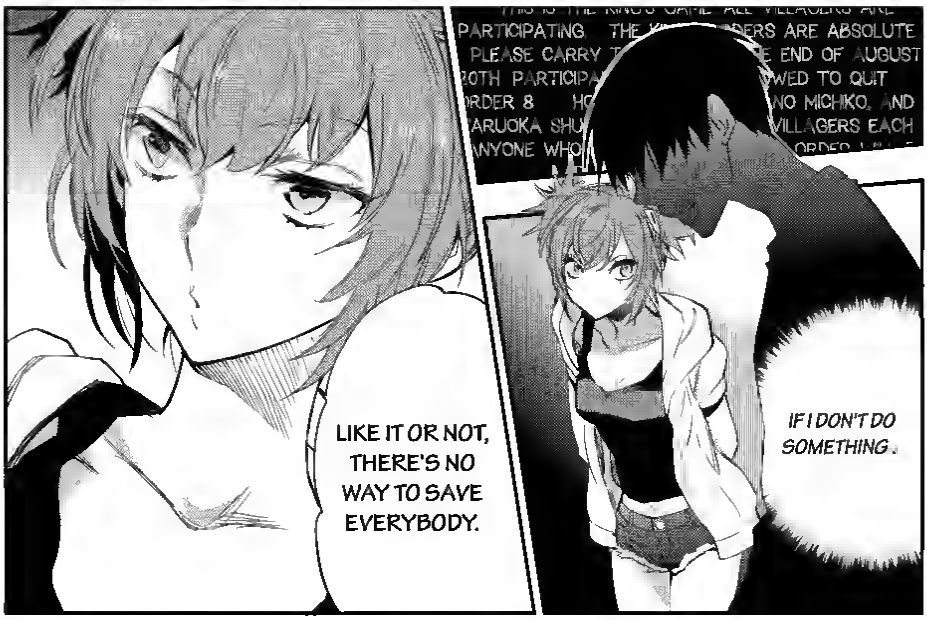
SHUUHEI-SAN!
YUUJI MIGHT PRESENT A PROBLEM SINCE HE'S EVEN BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN ME.
RYUUJI IS STILL ILL AND IN A LOT OF PAIN.
FUMIKO-SAN IS A WOMAN.

DON'T LET MICHIKO SUCKER YOU IN!
WE CAN GET OUT OF THIS WITHOUT KILLING ANYONE!
AND HOW MIGHT WE DO THAT?
BUT—
BUT WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK! LET'S USE IT!
I... HAVEN'T
...FIGURED IT OUT YET
IF YOU DO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT, BY ALL MEANS, LET ME KNOW.

HU—
IN THE MEANTIME I'LL BE OUT HUNTING
HUNTING…
KAZU-NARI.
I TAKE NO JOY IN KNOWING I'M ABOUT TO KILL MY FELLOW VILLAGERS.
BUT IF THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN SURVIVE, THEN SO BE IT.

I'LL BECOME A MONSTER.
I'M GOING HOME TO GET MY RIFLE
I COULDN'T CARRY IT OPENLY WITH SO MANY COPS AROUND
THE TEN-MINUTE HEAD START SHOULD BE UP BY THE TIME I'M READY

WHAT DO I DO?!
AT THIS RATE...
SOME-ONE'S GUARAN-TEED TO DIE...
EITHER US, FOR FAILING TO FOLLOW THE KING'S ORDER...
OR THE OTHERS, AT MICHIKO AND SHUUHEI-SAN'S HANDS...


LIKE IT OR NOT, THERE'S NO WAY TO SAVE EVERYBODY.
IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING.

WHAM
I SUPPOSE TECHNICALLY IF THE GOVERNMENT CAME UP WITH A WAY TO ELIMINATE THE VIRUS
THAT'S NOT TRUE! THERE HAS TO BE A WAY!
NO CHANCE, KAZUNARI.
BUT IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS?

SHFF
DAMN IT...

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON FRUITLESS EFFORTS!
THINK OF A WAY TO SAVE YOURSELF.
GLANCE
YEAH...
PUT YOURSELF FIRST.

FIRST THINGS FIRST, GOTTA TELL DOUJIMA-SAN ABOUT THE NEW ORDER.
THEN THINK OF A WAY OUT OF THIS.
A PLAN WHERE NO ONE DIES.
3 2 1
6 7
SHRRAK
SHRRAK
HELLO?!
GET ME DOUJI-MA-SAN!
BECAUSE IF THERE IS A WAY, MICHIKO AND SHUUHEI-SAN WON'T TRY TO KILL YUUJI AND EVERYONE ELSE...
A NEW ORDER'S COME IN!
SIGN: YONAKI VILLAGE INCIDENT
夜鳴村事件

BUT UNLESS A MIRACLE HAPPENS, I DON'T EXPECT ANY BREAK-THROUGHS ...
...IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO.
JEEZ... THAT'S THE ORDER?!
MIYAZAWA-KUN AND HIS TEAM ARE STILL RESEARCHI NG THE VIRUS.
WE DON'T DO SOMETHING THERE'S GOING TO BE A BLOODBATH UP HERE!
NO... NOTHING AT ALL.
CAN'T YOU DO ANY-THING?!

AND FURTHER-MORE, IF ANY OF YOU COME DOWN AND TRY TO LEAVE...
WE'VE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO HAVE ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH YOU ALL.
...WE'RE PERMITTED TO SHOOT YOU ON SIGHT.

N-
NO...
THIS INCIDENT... MIGHT BE BEYOND MY...
NO, BEYOND HUMANITY'S POWER TO SOLVE...
ALL I CAN DO...
...IS PRAY THAT AS MANY OF YOU SURVIVE AS POSSIBLE
BOOOOOP
BOOOOOP

WOBBLE
ぐら…
THMP
ドサ
SLIDE
ズル…
NOW WHAT...?
MY ONLY OPTION FOR SURVIVAL... IS TO MURDER TWO PEOPLE...
BUT I COULD NEVER DO THAT...

HAAH...
I'M GOING TO DIE.

I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN NATSUKO ONE LAST TIME.

THAT'S RIGHT... NATSUKO...
GOTTA GO LOOK FOR HER...
SPLURCH

...?
SAYONEE
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
SLICH
SPLURCH
SPLURCH
SPLURC

PLKSHH
ヘル

PLKSHH
SLICE
SPLURCH
SLICE
SPLURCH
SLICE
SPLURCH
SLICE
SPLURCH
PLKSHH

WIDE
WIDE
!
ONE DOWN ...
ONE TO GO.
GRIN

Y-YOU KILLED ...
...ATSU SHI-SAN...
YOU KILLED YOUR OWN FATHER?!
YUP. HE WAS PASSED OUT DRUNK. IT WAS SO EASY.
HE BARELY EVEN PUT UP A FIGHT.

PTA
PTA
PTA
IF I HADN'T DONE IT, SHUUHEI-SAN WOULD'VE
YUUKI
LEAN
AT LEAST THIS WAY...
...HE WAS ABLE TO HELP HIS DAUGHTER, LIKE A GOOD FATHER SHOULD.

LET'S SEE, WHO'S NEXT...
Y-YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO KILL AGAIN?!
OF COURSE. DUH.

IF I DON'T LIVE NOW, MY DAD WILL HAVE DIED IN VAIN
NOW, WHICH PREY ARE LEFT...
PREY...
YUUJI, RYUUJI, AND FUMIKO-SAN...
CLEARLY THE EASY CHOICE IS FUMIKO-SAN AND POOR BEAT-UP RYUUJI
HEY, MAYBE SEDUCTION WILL WORK ON HIM.

STOP!
PLEASE.
JUST STOP.
YOU'RE JOKING.
IF I DON'T KILL ONE MORE PERSON I'LL BE SKINNED ALIVE.
M-MIYA-ZAWA-SAN..
...MIGHT COME UP WITH A CURE FOR THE VIRUS!
PLEASE!
JUST WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!
THAT IS ASININE.
IF HE DOESN'T DELIVER, THEN I RISK RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

...
I HEARD YOU ON THE PHONE EARLIER.
DID THEY IMPLY THERE'S EVEN A CHANCE OF FINDING A CURE IN 24 HOURS?
JEEZ... THAT'S THE ORDER ?!
MIYAZAWA KUN AND HIS TEAM ARE STILL RESEARCHING THE VIRUS
UH...
WELL...
LOOK.
FLINCH

YOU'D BETTER START PREPARING YOURSELF MENTALLY, KAZUNARI.
IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR YOU, ME, AND SHUUHEI-SAN TO ALL SURVIVE.

THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH PREY...
...TO GO AROUND.
MUMBLE
SURVIVE...
KILL 'EM ALL...
PEEK